

ATTACHMENT B

Child Welfare Services

Program Background and Philosophy

- The primary purpose of child welfare is to identify, assess and respond to concerns within a family that negatively affect child safety or where the child's behavior negatively affects his/her safety.
- Child welfare services are intended to be temporary, to be delivered in the least intrusive manner, and to be family-specific.

Child Welfare Case Types and Entry into Child Welfare Services

- Child welfare cases include families and children where the children remain in the family home or where a child in the family has been removed from his/her family.
- These children and their families may be served on a voluntary or court-ordered basis under Ch. 48 or Ch. 938 of Wisconsin Statutes. Agency involvement may be due to concerns related to child safety or child behaviors affecting his/her safety in the community.

Services

- Child welfare services for which federal Title IV-E reimbursement can be claimed include both administrative services as well as placement, or maintenance, cases for children placed in out of home care.
- These administrative activities are specified within the state's **CPS Investigation Standards and the Ongoing Services Standards and Guidelines**. Various Administrative Rules and Policy also govern additional activities related to the Child welfare services such as foster care licensing, adoption assistance and Title IV-E.

Case Responsibility

- Child welfare services are to be delivered until the child can be safely cared for in the family home or is placed in a safe, permanent home outside the parental home or court-ordered conditions have been met.
- If the family moves from one county to another, continuing services may be provided through a request for courtesy supervision from the new county or a venue change of the legally responsible agency to the new county.

Fiscal Overview

- The primary funding sources for child welfare services are federal Title IV-E, Social Services Block Grant and state General Purpose Revenue (GPR) provided through the Basic County Allocation. The other primary funding source is local county funds including required match and county over-match.
- Other federal funding sources used for child welfare services include Title IV-B (Parts 1 and 2), Title IV-E Income Augmentation Funds, Independent Living and Kinship Care (TANF) funds.
- The DHFS claims federal reimbursement under Title IV-E for activities related to foster care and preventing out-of-home placement and Medicaid Targeted Case Management (TCM) for non Title IV-E eligible children.
- The Social Services Random Moment Time Study (SS RMTS) facilitates the allocation of staff time and costs eligible for federal reimbursement. The SS RMTS uses a quarterly random moment time study sampling process to identify the amount of time county staff spend on job activities throughout the workday. The results of the time study are used to allocate costs related to county and Bureau of Milwaukee Child Welfare (BMCW) human/social services workers. Counties report their social services costs using the Community Aids Reporting System (CARS).
- County agencies may also claim TCM via a fee for service basis for allowable activities provided to eligible children by agency staff as permitted by federal and state policy. The Basic County Allocation (BCA) or county tax levy may be used as a local match for TCM claiming at the local levels (See Section III).
- Administrative services allowable under Title IV-E include:

- ❖ Implementing and monitoring a service plan to ensure child safety;
 - ❖ Developing, implementing and evaluating the child's case plan;
 - ❖ Finding, establishing and placing a child with a placement provider;
 - ❖ Setting the rate for payment to the placement provider;
 - ❖ Developing, implementing and reviewing the child's permanency plan and;
 - ❖ Participating in court proceedings related to ensuring child safety and achieving child permanency.
- Maintenance costs or placement costs are covered for children who have been determined to be eligible for Title IV-E for costs associated with placement in Title IV-E reimbursable facilities.